MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

21 APRIL 1981

Lebanon

Air Raid in South--According to Beirut radio, Israeli planes bombed An-Nabatiyah and other areas in the south on 20 April. Citing the IDF spokesman, Jerusalem radio confirmed the raid, saying all planes had returned safely to base after scoring direct hits on their targets. Responding to several Beirut radio reports that Israeli forces were shelling Tyre and other southern towns, Jerusalem radio denied that Israel was responsible. According to the clandestine Voice of Palestine radio, the shelling continued throughout the afternoon of 20 April. Jerusalem radio also broadcast several reports about shelling of the Galilee panhandle from Lebanon. Although the shelling on 20 April caused no casualties, the radio said, two people were wounded when it was resumed 21 April.

Beirut Clashes--Beirut radio reported intense artillery and rocket duels throughout Beirut. Residential areas and Beirut International Airport were among the areas hit. The Voice of Lebanon radio blamed the firing on the Arab Deterrent Forces, while the Voice of Palestine held the Phalangists responsible.

Kuwaiti Conference Offer--Responding to an earlier reported offer by Kuwait to host a conference on the Lebanese crisis, PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat has announced his acceptance of the proposal, KUNA reported. PLO Political Department chief Faruq Qaddumi also welcomed the proposal, KUNA said, stating that the PLO Executive Committee will discuss the official invitation when it is received. In comments to newsmen reported by KUNA, Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad as-Sabah said the Kuwaiti ambassador to Lebanon has been instructed to pursue the matter with all parties concerned.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Military Situation--Tehran radio reported fighting on the southern fronts around Abadan and in the western regions of Ilam and Mehran. An Iraqi General Command communique, carried by INA, reported a number of engagements in western Iran, claiming that Iraqi forces killed 76 Iranians during a clash in the Mehran region.

Jordan on Syrian Involvement--Amman radio, citing the London newspaper DAILY MAIL, reported that Syrian MiG-23 fighters have supported Iranian planes in combat operations over Iraq and that they recently provided cover for eight Iranian Phantom aircraft that raided Iraqi targets and then landed at Syrian airfields.

Iran

MIZAN Ban Lifted--Tehran radio's English service, citing ENQELAB-E ESLAMI, reported that the ban on MIZAN has been lifted temporarily. According to AFP, MIZAN publisher Reza Sadr was released from jail after posting bail of 5 million rials. Speaking in the MIZAN office, Sadr characterized his arrest and the newspaper's closure as a direct attack on freedom of the press and said MIZAN will shortly reappear.

New Opposition Group--The clandestine Voice of Iran radio reported that a newly formed resistance group called Pars has distributed a communique inside Iran calling for a constitutional monarchy.

Talks With Soviet Envoy--Tehran radio reported that the trade minister held a 2-hour meeting with the Soviet ambassador in Tehran. They discussed ways to increase Soviet-Iranian trade and to improve the transit of goods between the two countries.

Iraq

According to reports by INA, the Soviet State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations chairman, Semen Skachkov, has held several meetings with Iraqi officials in Baghdad. On 19 April Skachkov and his delegation met with Industry and Minerals Minister Tahir Tawfiq, and the following day Skachkov discussed Soviet-Iraqi economic and technical cooperation with First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yasin Ramadan.

Kuwait

KUNA reported that Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad as-Sabah and a delegation will visit the Soviet Union on 23 April at the invitation of the Soviet Government.

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AFP REPORTS SHIFT IN KARMAL ATTITUDE ON REFUGEES

BK181033 Hong Kong AFP in English 1024 GMT 18 Apr 81

[Text] Islamabad, 18 Apr (AFP)--Afghan President Babrak Karmal has taken the first step towards agreement on talks aimed at a political settlement of the Afghan crisis, a well-informed source here said today. He made the move at a meeting in Kabul two days ago with Javier Perez de Cuellar, special envoy of United Nations Secretary General Kurt Waldheim, when for the first time he recognised the existence of Afghan refugees in Pakistan. His country's official position was previously to consider the estimated two million Afghans in Pakistan as bandits or traitors.

Analysts said confirmation of this shift in attitude could open the way to negotiating at least one of four conditions set by Pakistan as a condition for restoring diplomatic links with Afghanistan. Mr Karmal did not back down on his rejection of the UN resolution condemning the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan but made clear that he wanted to maintain dialogue with the UN in view of opening negotiations with neighbours Iran and Pakistan, the source said. Big stumbling-blocks were however said to remain in the way of tripartite negotiations--the role of the UN envoy, the status given to Afghan representatives, and Tehran's refusal to deal with the Kabul regime.

INDIAN EXPRESS INTERVIEWS KARMAL ON REBELS, TALKS

BK210634 Hong Kong AFP in English 0612 GMT 21 Apr 81

[Text] New Delhi, 21 Apr (AFP)--Afghan President Babrak Karmal has said he could wipe out insurgency in his country in "two to three months."

"After the new phase of the revolution (Soviet armed intervention in December 1979 and his installation as the president) great numbers of bandits have been liquidated. So far they have not fought face to face with our troops," Mr Karmal was quoted as saying in an interview published in the English daily INDIAN EXPRESS today. "There are more than 17 (rebel) training centres in Pakistan and the instructors are Pakistanis, Americans, Chinese, Egyptians and even Israelis... even some professional killers who abound in Europe (Foreign Legion) are working as instructors." "There are about eight bases in Xingiang Province of China and also there are 10 to 12 centres in Iran manned by the (American) Central Intelligence Agency," Mr Karmal said. "We can wipe them out in two to three months, but the influx of mercenaries continues from abroad," he said.

Mr Karmal maintained that his government would respond "warmly" to the efforts of the United Nations secretary-general's representative for bringing about a solution of the Afghan crisis. UN Under Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar visited Kabul and Islamabad last week on a fact finding mission. He left Islamabad for New York on April 18 to report to Dr Kurt Waldheim. Mr Karmal accused Pakistan of acting as "a tool and means of aggression against Afghanistan in an undeclared war." The interviewer, Rajendra Sareen, found Mr Karmal "perfectly relaxed, apparently in good health and willing to take even awkward questions with good humour and aplomb." Replying to questions on the prospect of a political solution of the Afghan issue, Mr Karmal said during last year-end he had "sensed that there was a desire and readiness on the part of Pakistan for talks, but it must now be said with regret that the governing military junta of Pakistan has no free will of its own."

NUR AHMAD NUR ADDRESSES GDR PARTY CONGRESS

LD171836 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 17 Apr 81

[Text] A congratulatory message from Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, chairman of the Revolution Council and prime minister of the DRA, marking the 10th GDR Congress, which ended yesterday in Berlin, was conveyed yesterday by Nur Ahmad Nur, secretary and member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo.

TASS reported from Berlin that Nur Ahmad Nur expressed delight at the great victories and gains which were attained by the GDR people under the leadership of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany [SED]. He said that the PDPA fully supports the SED's stand on the vital issues of our century--peace and detente.

Nur Ahmad Nur thanked the GDR for its support to the DRA and the Afghan revolution. He spoke at the SED Congress about the undeclared war waged against Afghanistan by imperialism and reaction, especially U.S. imperialism in close unity with Beijing hegemonism.

Nur Ahmad Nur added: We believe that our just struggle will gain victory as all progressive humanity, headed by the Soviet Union, is on our side. Nur Ahmad Nur supported the peace program of the Soviet Union and said: This program reveals a way to normalize political events linked with Afghanistan.

NUR AHMAD NUR RETURNS FROM VISIT TO GDR 20 APR

LD202138 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 20 Apr 81

[Text] Nur Ahmad Nur, member of the Politburo and secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and member of the DRA Revolution Council presidium, returned home today after taking part in the 10th SED Congress.

He was welcomed at Kabul airport by Dr Saleh Mohammad Ziray, member of the Politburo and secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and member of the DRA Revolution Council Presidium; Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, member of the Politburo of the party Central Committee, vice chairman of the Revolution Council and deputy prime minister; Dastagir Panjshiri, member of the Politburo and member of the Revolution Council; Aslam Watanjar, member of the Central Committee, member of the Revolution Council Presidium and the minister of commerce; some other members of the party Central Committee, and F.A. Tabeyev, Soviet ambassador in Kabul.

Nur Ahmad Nur, who led an Afghan delegation which included 'Abdorrashid Arian, member of the Central Committee, member of the Revolution Council, deputy prime minister and minister of justice and attorney general, had gone to Berlin to take part in the 10th SED Congress. The delegation was invited by the SED Central Committee. Nur Ahmad Nur, speaking to a BAKHTAR correspondent, appraised as excellent the results of the 10th SED Congress for the lofty aspirations of peace and cooperation between nations, and expressed gratitude at the hospitality of the GDR party and Government authorities which was accorded to the Afghan delegation.

PUBLIC WORKS MINISTER SPEAKS TO YOUTH BOUND FOR FRONT

GF201617 Kabul in Urdu to South Asia 1330 GMT 20 Apr 81

[Text] Young party activists from Paktia's [words indistinct] division have left Paktia Province for a sector to crush counterrevolutionaries. Engineer Nazar Mohammad, member of the PDPA and the Revolution Council and minsiter of public works, met with the youth before their departure. Praising their noble, patriotic sentiments, he said: I pray for you success in achieving the lofty goals of the PDPA, which aim at improving the welfare of the Afghan people.

SECURITY FORCES ANNOUNCEMENT ON FOREIGN INTEFFERENCE

LD201902 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 20 Apr 81

[Announcement by DRA security forces--date and place not given]

[Text] Our national, democratic revolution, particularly in its new developmental stage, by putting an end to the plundering dominance of the despotic ruling reactionary circles, began a new era in the life of our people, the major feature of which is service to the people.

All forces who lost their class privileges due to the victory of the revolution have embarked on subversive activities, and acts of conspiracy and treachery in one united rank against our revolution. The revolutionary victories of our people resulted in strengthening the anti-imperialist movements and the resistence to the intrigues of reaction and imperialism. Therefore, reaction in the region, under the leadership of imperialism--headed by U.S. criminal imperialism in shameful collusion with Chinese hegemonism--embarked on interference in our domestic affairs and aggression against our people's vital interests territorial integrity, independence and national sovereignty. Under these conditions the counterrevolutionary (?fugitives) and the enemies of the liberating revolution, by taking refuge behind the foul and filthy skirt of reaction and imperialism--in particular as a result of the broad moral and material support of U.S. imperialism from the territory of Pakistan--disrupted the peaceful life of our people, pressured innocent people and set fire to schools, hospitals and other public properties. Thus, U.S. imperialism, making extensive use of these counterrevolutionary bands, broadened the dimensions of its interference in our domestic affairs from day to day by sending waves of [words indistinct] weapons and mercenary American and European professional murderers to our country. The counterrevolution in our country, linked to and guided by the forces of reacion, imperialism and hegemonism, engaged in terrifying crimes.

Today we have put on display all those weapons manufactured in Egypt that were seized from a certain locality. This is another obvious indication of foreign interference in the domestic affairs of our country. Our country is currently facing a broad coordinated aggression by the forces of reaction, imperialism and hegemonism, as a matter of fact the undeclared imperialist war against our revolution and country is growing larger every day.

The continuation of the undeclared way against our country and the continuous interference by the forces of reaction, imperialism and their shameless Maoist collaborators in our domestic affairs confront the people of our region with further dangers every day. They have not only limited the possibilities of a peaceful settlement of the present problems at the regional and international level, but they are threatening the people with serious danger. We, however, by pursuing our country's peaceful policy with full faith, are fighting against these shameless aggressions of the enemies of our revolution and our people. Our security and armed forces have, up to now, decisively crushed the regular counterrevolutionary bands. We will very soon clean our sacred soil from the existence of the last remnants of these criminals and will foil all interference by reaction and imperialism. The weapons which are in front of you are a sample and indication of the power and awareness of the security forces of our country. We will defend our homeland and peace and security in the country with courage and awareness and our enemies will gain nothing but ludicurous defeat.

CAPTURED REBELS, WEAPONS PARADED AT NEWS CONFERENCE

LD202005 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 20 Apr 81

[Excerpts] Another example of aggressive interference by imperialism and international reaction against the Afghan revolution was exposed today at a press conference. In the press conference journalists were shown part of the large number of various types of Chinese and Egyptian weapons which were hidden in Kabul by counterrevolutionary rebel groups for the purpose of carrying out criminal actions. The arms were recently discovered by the country's vigilant security forces, and their owners arrested.

At the beginning of the press conference, held in the Ariana Hotel and attended by local and foreign journalists and military and cultural attaches of a number of embassies in Kabul, a member of the national security force explained the types of captured weapons and stated: The captured weapons were made in China and Egypt and consist of anti-personnel and tank mines, rocket launchers, [word indistinct] with bullets, light machine-guns, hand grenades, rifles, pistols and so forth, which were sent to Afghanistan by the reactionary oppressive ruling circles and international imperialism and its servants to be used to murder and kill innocent people.

The BAKHTAR correspondent reports that the two counterrevolutionaries who were linked with a group of rebels and charged with possessing and hiding the captured weapons were introduced to the press conference. They replied to the questions of the local and foreign journalists. The detainees confessed to committing treacherous, criminal acts. They also explained about the camps and training centers of the rebels and Afghan counter-revolutionaries in Pakistan.

BRIEFS

AIRPORT CONSTRUCTION--Kabul, 18 Apr (BAKHTAR)--The preliminary engineering cartographic work by Soviet experts for the construction of six new airports in Afghanistan is underway. These airports are to be constructed in the current year in Badakhshan Province at Faizabad, Khwahan, Darwaz, Sheghnan, Qala Panja and Keranomenjan. Disclosing this in an interview to Kabul NEW TIMES an authorative source of the Ministry of Transport and Tourism of the DRA added that during the current year Kabul airport will also be reconstructed. The plan for its reconstruction has been designed by the Soviet engineers and includes asphalting of the runway and taxiway, addition of a new terminal and modernization of various systems. [Text] [Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0440 GMT 19 Apr 81 LD]

USSR MINING SUPPLIES--A contract to purchase equipment and spare parts required by the Department of Mines and Geological Survey of the Ministry of Mines and Industry--with the value of 3,419.662 afghanis--was signed today with the friendly country of the USSR. The contract was signed by the director general of the Department of Mines and Geological Survey for the Afghan side, and the assistant economic adviser of the USSR Embassy in Kabul for the Soviet side. A spokesman of the Ministry of Mines and Industry said that on the basis of this contract the equipment and parts contained in the contract will be handed over to the Afghan side via the Hyratan terminal within 2 years after the signing of the conctract. Similarly, a contract was signed between the parties in connection with the sending of a number of Soviet experts to cooperate with the department of mines and geological survey. [Text] [Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1730 GMT 19 Apr 81 LD]

COMMENTATOR: GANDHI, THATCHER WORLD VIEWS DIFFER

BK200420 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 19 Apr 81

[Spotlight: Analysis of the British Prime Minister Mrs Thatcher's visit to India by A. Vishwam of DECCAN HERALD]

[Text] Given the widely differing perceptions of India and Great Britain on almost all aspects of the current international situation and on widely ranging global issues of interest and concern to this region, it would have been too optimistic, if not foolhardy, to have entertained any political expectations from the visit of the British Prime Minister Mrs Margaret Thatcher. Even so, if only for the reason that face to face diplomacy between and among world leaders helps in understanding one another's positions better, the visit must be termed useful, if not mutually rewarding. In the very recent past India had the opportunity to welcome Prince Charles; barely 3 years ago Labor Prime Minister James Callaghan was in our midst. This was Mrs Thatcher's third visit to India, but her first as prime minister.

Margaret Thatcher and Indira Gandhi are no strangers to each other. Despite an unsavory historical past, post-independent India has maintained a closeness in its relations with Britain. At least in the economic field this closeness has not entirely been without yields of dividends for both the countries. Yet, it is in the political sphere and especially in respect of global perspectives that the countries, despite their shared faith in democracy and freedom, have found themselves at different ends of the spectrum.

In one of the speeches during the visit Mrs Gandhi said that Britain has a genius for conciliation and is known to take a pragmatic view. This may well be so, but those who are rightly exercised--and their number is legion in India--over the deterioration in the international environs and the growing arms race and deliberate militarization around us, will tend to take the view that Britain has been of late manifesting anything but pragmatic views.

It is no secret that ever since assuming her present office Mrs Thatcher has introduced into British foreign policy elements of rigidity and conservatism, and one may add militancy, unknown in the last decade and more and into domestic race relations elements of unreasonableness and retrogression, but on this, more later.

On global issues, Britain has identified herself so closely and completely with the Reagan administraion in Washington as to invite the charge that she has no independent foreign policy of her own. During her recent visit to Washington, Mrs Thatcher subscribed to the Reagan administration's militant and aggressive global perspectives with breathtaking enthusiasm, and in her speeches in India and in her replies to questions at her press conference she showed herself capable of qualities of stubbornness and rigidity which didn't, on the face of it, reflect the genius for conciliation Mrs Gandhi spoke of.

Mrs Thatcher was our guest, and consistent with the tradition of Indian hospitality it becomes our bounden duty to consider her views with respect, understand them with fairness and appreciate them, if we can.

Let us analyse the three or four major issues on which British positions are diametrically opposed to India's and on which, hopefully, Mrs Thatcher might have derived a better understanding of India's arguments as a result of her talks with Mrs Gandhi.

Incidentally, so contrary are the two positions that Mrs Gandhi thought it fit to depart from the established convention and make a speech to reaffirm the Indian view from the same platform in Parliament's central hall from where Mrs Thatcher defined her country's policies. It was just as well that Mrs Gandhi broke precedent because the rounds of discussions had brought into sharp focus the absence of a meeting ground at all on any of the major issues. Mrs Thatcher justified the militarization of the Indian Ocean and the Gulf region as preempting Soviet expansionism and defending Western interests which she thought coincided with India's interests since India, like Western Europe, is highly dependent on Gulf oil supplies. She justified the American strategy of positioning a rapid deployment force in which Britain will be an active participant. She saw no special merit in converting the Indian Ocean into a zone of peace, because its strategic oil lanes and fields had to be protected, and she justified the rearming of Pakistan because she said it was Pakistan's right and duty to defend itself. She shared the American assessment of Pakistan having become a frontline state after the events in Afghanistan.

Now it is here that Mrs Gandhi's pithy and pertinent remarks that the world cannot but look different from Delhi and from London and that geography and history color vision becomes valid. Mrs Gandhi expected that Britain, with a tradition of diplomacy and dialogue, could exert its influence for political rather than military solutions.

India has always held the view that great power rivalries spawn a competitive arms race which leads to new tensions and ultimate armed upheavals. In contemporary wars, Mrs Gandhi said, there are no victors; (?nor) is the ultimate outcome determined by military power. The Korea and Vietnam conflicts had shown that when reasonable opportunities for settlement was spurned the result was prolonged armed involvement and senseless loss of life and national assets, and as for the policy of containment of international communism, Mrs Gandhi subtly but forcefully highlighted the Indian position: We are a little weary of theories of the containment of one country or another. Far from adding to security, such concepts have resulted in destabilization. We are concerned only with containment of violence and racialism, of stockpiles of arms and further refinement of instruments of death and of the propensity to use these for the destruction of generations of the living and the unborn, indeed of human values.

This apart, what has been the experience of this part of the world? Mrs Thatcher referred to Britain's experience of the horrors of war and never wanted to see them again, but her solution to the preservation of peace was the search of military balance at the lowest level that can be negotiated and monitored. But it is precisely because these military balances have led to balances of terror and additionally carried a potential of European conflicts being resolved on Asian soil that India, along with the developing Third World, shuns them.

Mrs Thatcher's statement that ultimately each nation must be responsible for its own defense, defense of its borders and defense of its people, is unquestionable, but in the context of Pakistan what needs to be remembered, and Mrs Gandhi stressed this point in her talks with the British prime minister, is that in the last 10 years Pakistan has doubled its defense strength. India did not protest then, but with regard to the specific issue of the American proposal to induct massive military hardware into Pakistan in fulfillment of its own concept of a strategic consensus from Pakistan to Egypt, the Indian contention is that it will introduce a qualitative difference.

As Mrs Gandhi told Parliament on a different occasion, Pakistan's defense seems once again to be becoming part of a larger strategic alignment stretching from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean, to say nothing of the Indian Ocean in between, and this is what worries India.

Mrs Thatcher entered a plea on behalf of Pakistan. During her official talks she read out portions of a letter addressed to her by President Zia on the eve of her Indian visit in which he held out assurances of peaceful intentions toward India, but has not India on innumerable occasions in the recent past assured Pakistan that it was not insensitive to its security concerns? Has not India repeatedly pledged its peaceful intentions and its readiness to normalize relations in the spirit of the Simla Agreement? Mrs Thatcher would not agree that massive induction of arms into Pakistan posed a threat because of the possibility of their misuse against India, but it is India which had to defend itself in three wars, and in each weapons meant for a different cause were directed against it.

But there was one field in which the British prime minister failed to carry conviction. It was in the field of race relations. In her address to Parliament, she said there was nothing in the proposed nationality bill which discriminated against any racial or national group. The British immigration officials were instructed to carry out their duties in accordance with the law without regard to race, color or religion. Yet, because of the jet age, millions of people visited Britain every year and some tried to enter illegally and ran the risk of being turned back. The percentage of refusals was tiny; in the case of Indians not much more than 1 in 200.

The point here is that no one can dispute Britain's right to frame nationality laws. Mrs Thatcher bemoaned that Britain is perhaps the only country in the world without a clear definition of its own citizenship. If this is the position, certainly Britain must lay down criteria of citizenship. An interesting aspect to the objections against the nationality bill is that apart from Indians all other colored sections settled in Britain have also protested against its clearly racial overtones. What is being objected to is that the bill is discriminatory. It does away with the automatic right to British citizenship of persons born in that country. It holds out a threat to expel people who have been resident for less than 10 years. A group of members of Parliament who called on Mrs Thatcher pointed out that even after the acceptance of four suggested amendments the pernicious aspects of the nationality bill still remained, and Mrs Thatcher pleaded inability to accomodate further amendments.

Secondly, published British statistics have confirmed that the percentage of refusals of Indian entries are much higher than claimed by Mrs Thatcher. In any case, they are far too high compared to that for white visitors. Because of the strong feelings evoked among the Indian people and Parliament on this issue, Mrs Gandhi was constrained to voice the hope that with Mrs Thatcher's proclaimed commitment to a society in which all individuals will have equal rights and opportunities irrespective of race, color or creed, every effort would be made to insure that no group has cause for grievance.

In the final analysis the outcome of Mrs Thatcher's visit must be assessed not in terms of the divergencies of views between the two countries but in deeper terms of durable bilateral relations. The existence of divergencies was known and hence the surfacing and their exchange of views were perhaps inevitable. Mrs Thatcher has been unambiguous in explaining her country's perspective in terms of British interest. Mrs Gandhi has been no less firm and clear in enunciating the Indian approach to the problems of war and peace, but on the economic front agreements between India and Britain, five of them, signed in the presence of the two prime ministers gave a new depth to bilateral relations. We need to remember that Britain is India's largest single donor, she is India's third largest trading partner, and we have Mrs Thatcher's word that Britain believes that aid to India is the soundest of investments in the future. But it will be relevant to add in this context that British investments are not entirely motivated by altruism. For every pound invested here since the East India Company days, the returns must have been many times over.

This apart, there has been a vague assurance from her that Britain will not encourage protectionism against Indian exports, but whether this assurance will be transmitted in concrete terms or not remains to be seen.

TARAPORE FUEL DIALOGUE WITH U.S. TO CONTINUE

BK201552 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 20 Apr 81

[Text] External Affairs Minister Narasimha Rao arrived in New York from Algiers today to attend the UN General Assembly session on Namibia. Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs Eric Gonsalves will apprise the minister about his discussions with the U.S. administration in Washington.

Meanwhile, a Foreign Office spokesman said in New Delhi today that the press reports about the U.S. decision to terminate the Tarapore nuclear cooperation agreement with India are a mere speculation. He told newsmen that discussion with the United States on all aspects of Tarapore would continue.

COAL COOPERATION PROGRAM SIGNED WITH USSR

BK210342 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 21 Apr 81

[Text] India and the Soviet Union have signed a joint working program for further cooperation in the field of coal industry. The working program was signed by the Union Minister of Energy, A.B.A. Ghani Khan Choudhury, the Soviet minister for coal industry, Mr Bratchenko, in New Delhi yesterday.

The program is an elaboration of the agreement signed during Soviet President Mr Brezhnev's visit to India in December last year.

MP'S CALL DESAI REMARKS ON PAKISTAN 'TREASON'

BK210904 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 21 Apr 81

[Text] Former Prime Minister Morarji Desai's reported justification of arms buildup by Pakistan came in for severe criticism in the Rajya Sabha today. In a special mention, Mr J.K. Jain, Congress-I, termed it as treason and demanded suitable action against Mr Desai. supporting his view, Mr Bhupesh Gupta, CPI, said Mr Desai must be condemned by all for his statement coming as it does from an ex-prime minister.

COMMENTATOR NOTES GOALS OF SHAHI VISIT TO U.S.

BK211000 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1715 GMT 20 Apr 81

[Salim Alwi commentary]

[Text] Foreign Minister of Pakistan Agha Shahi is on a very important visit to Washington. The visit takes place in the background of a recent political development in the region and geopolitical implications as it concerns Pakistan. He will have consultations with U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig on bilateral and regional matters and will also call on Vice President George Bush.

Pakistan and the United States developed a special relationship in the mid-fifties. The two countries signed a bilateral agreement on mutual security and Pakistan also joined the Baghdad pact, later on (?came into) CENTO and SEATO. Both these pacts are dead now. The mutual security pact with United States was also found to be of little use when Pakistan faced foreign invasions in 1963 and 1971.

During subsequent years, Pakistan has been readjusting its foreign policy in the light of its connections with CENTO and SEATO and has adopted nonalignment as the basis of its foreign policy. In other words, it is its constant endeavor to steer clear of superpower alignments and follow a policy of friendship toward all and malice toward none. While Pakistan has been reshaping its foreign policy on these lines, developments have been taking place around its border which have created serious security problems. The Soviet intervention in Afghanistan has resulted in serious internal strife in that country leading to a mass exodus of its civil population. No less than 2 million Afghans have [words indistinct]. As a brotherly Muslim country, it has to look after their well-being with its already hard-pressed, meager material resources.

Then certain subversive elements have set up their headquarters in Kabul to step up terrorist acts against Pakistan. In that context, Pakistan has to streamline its security arrangements. It has to reorganize its defenses and replace out-of-date weapons with modern ones, in other words, it has to arm itself with sophisticated weapons not for invading a country--it is too small and too weak to do so--but to be in a better position to defend itself.

The Pakistan foreign minister is visiting Washington to discuss bilateral affairs in this context. We have maintained [words indistinct] policy of nonalignment. We should explore the possibility of buying much needed arms. It is very strange that Pakistan's efforts to increase its defense capability have caused an uproar in India which has built up a gigantic war machine during the last 3 decades, but it goes to the credit of the present regime headed by Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq that the Indian hue and cry has not created any impression. The U.S. secretary of state has said it is categorically [as heard] that Pakistan has every right to arm itself. Similarly, British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, addressing a press conference in New Delhi, brushed aside Indian objections and defended Pakistan's efforts to improve its defenses.

It may be recalled that whenever Pakistan has tried to improve its defense capability it has come up against Indian objections. The objections this time, too, are not a new development. The new development lies in the fact that formerly these objections used to scare away Western powers, but this time they have refused to be scared. They have upheld Pakistan's right to buy arms for its defense needs.

It does not mean that Pakistan has given up its policy of nonalignment. Pakistan will remain nonaligned, but, with its improved defense capability, it will become a bastion to safeguard the independence and security of the countries situated in the region, and that includes India also. It is in this background that Agha Shahi will be discussing geopolitical affairs with top State Department officials.

KHOMEYNI RECEIVES ARMAMENTS WORKERS, DUZDUZANI

GF201136 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 20 Apr 81

[Excerpts] This morning Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the nation and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, received a large group of laborers and employees of the country's arm's industry along with members of Az-Zahra' bureau in Yazd.

This morning the imam also received Minister of Islamic Guidance 'Abbas Duzduzani.

Addresses Workers

LD201354 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 20 Apr 81

[Speech by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni to employees of Iranian military industry and staff and students of Yazd's Maktab al-Zahra, a religious school for girls; at his Tehran residence, 20 April--recorded, duration 17 minutes]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The origin of all victories and defeats is in man himself. Man is the basis of victory and defeat. Man's belief is the foundation of all affairs. Westerners, formerly Britain and now America, and other powerful countries, intended to persuade weak countries into believing that they are important, using their extensive propaganda campaigns. [Passage indistinct]

Those who intended to plunder the resources of weak countries had as their well-calculated plan to make the people of these countries, these nations believe that they are impotent. They convinced these oppressed countries of their impotence and the people themselves believed that they were unable to have their own industries or supervise their army or manage the affairs of their own country. This belief, which was planted in these countries by the propaganda campaigns of those under the influence of the West, pushed these countries toward destruction and kept them behind.

You should start with yourself. You should begin to believe that you are human beings too, that you are able to think, that you are capable of having your own industry. This capability is potentially present in everybody. Once this belief is there, like during the past 2 years, when you found out that what they said was just propaganda and that the reality was different, that it was just propaganda to say that one is incapable of even breathing when confronted by the superpowers and that one should surrender to the superpowers [sentence as heard]. During this period, when you staged a revolution, when you rose, you began to believe and make other oppressed nations and governments believe, too, that it is possible to stand before world-devouring America and the world-devouring USSR. It is 2 years now since you courageously staged a revolution and rose against them and cut their hands from your country. You saw that it was possible and you yourselves were able to resist, although your military power and your industrial power did not match theirs.

The main point is that your thoughts should be liberated. Your thoughts should be liberated from dependency on superpowers. If your thoughts are liberated and you begin to believe that you are capable of having industries and becoming industrialized, then you will become so. If your thoughts and your beliefs are that you are capable of being independent and free from dependence on others, then you will have the ability.

If our farmers believe that they are capable of becoming agriculturally self-sufficient and of reaching a stage where they can export--where they do not need others but others need them--then they will be capable of doing so.

As I have been informed, you who are working in industries have succeeded in taking many positive steps. I hope that you will achieve greater victories so that we will not have to extend our hands toward the East or the West for help and that we will be able to manage our affairs ourselves. I hope that we ourselves will be able to make our country completely independent, free from any dependence on others.

Peace and God's blessings be upon you all.

BANI-SADR CONTINUES KHUZESTAN INSPECTION TOUR

Visits Front

LD182226 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 18 Apr 81

[Text] The commander in chief of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran this evening inspected the frontlines in Khuzestan Province. PARS reports that during this more-than-2-hour visit the commander of the forces at the front briefed Mr Bani-Sadr on the activities of the units under his command. The same report says that the commander in chief of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran talked to soldiers, NCO's, officers and other combatants during an inspection of our entrenchments. He asked them to make every effort to achieve final victory and destroy the mercenary personnel of Saddam's aggressive army.

According to the same report, Mr Bani-Sadr thanked the military personnel for their efforts during an inspection of the supply department in Khuzestan Province.

Meets With Commanders

LD192150 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 19 Apr 81

[Text] In tonight's meeting of the military commanders in one of the cities of Khuzestan, chaired by the commander in chief of the armed forces, Mr Bani-Sadr, the situation at the fronts and the coordination of the army with the guards and the militia were discussed. During the meeting, which was also attended by the acting chief of the joint staff, commanders of the armed forces and militia stationed in the area and commanders of the Khuzestan revolution guards, the situation on the war fronts and operations behind the battle zone were discussed. An exchange of opinions took place on operations necessary to further the projects and also coordination of the army, the guards and the militia. Some decisions were made on these topics.

Inspects Frontline 20 Apr

GF210625 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 21 Apr 81

[Text] Under a hail of enemy artillery shells, Dr Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, president and commander in chief of the armed forces, inspected one of the Khuzestan fronts yesterday. After inspecting the trenches of the defenders of Islam, Dr Bani-Sadr exchanged views with officers, warrant officers and valiant soldiers at this front. The president expressed his appreciation for their continuous efforts to defend and guard this part of the homeland.

RAJA'I CHAIRS 20 APR COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING

LD201202 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 20 Apr 81

[Text] The Council of Ministers met at 0600 under the chairmanship of Mr Raja'i, the prime minister.

According to the Central News Bureau correspondent, at this session, which began with the recitation of verses from the holy Koran, Mr Nemazi, the minister of economy and finance, reported on the government's income from tax collection. Then, the deputy of this ministry explained the activities of the commission in charge of eliminating bank interest rates and submitted a report on the operations of this commission. Also, documents ratified by the services and finance and economic commissions were handed to the cabinet and a number of them were approved.

At today's session the Council of Ministers also approved the proposal made by the Ministry of the Interior on allocating 1 billion rials to compensate for damages resulting from the flood in Kerman; it was decided that this sum should be put at the disposal of the Kerman Governorate General. Also, according to the bill ratified by the Council of Ministers, from now on permission for sale of state-owned houses will be issued only upon the approval of the minister of state in charge of executive affairs, the minister of housing and urban development, and the minister in charge of the government departments owning these houses.

The same report indicates that, according to another bill proposed by the prime minister and ratified by the Council of Ministers, all armed forces personnel or employees of government departments and organizations who lost their lives fighting against the monarchical regime and in connection with the Islamic revolution of Iran before 11 February 1978 will be considered martyrs of the revolution and will enjoy the same legal rights as martyrs. At the end of the Council of Ministers session another proposal made by the Ministry of the Interior on the exemption of 5 billion rials from the provisions of the law for public account [as heard] to be allocated for the use of the foundation for war victims, which was [word indistinct] before, was discussed and passed. The session ended at 0930.

DETAILS OF 3-MAN COMMITTEE SESSION REPORTED

LD202240 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 20 Apr 81

[Text] The three-man mediation committee met in session this afternoon in the Interior Ministry. At the end of the session the spokesman, Mr Yazdi, speaking in a PARS interview, talked about the subjects discussed in the session. He said that the subject of a recent meeting between Messrs Kani, Eshraqi and Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and his guidance were the first topic of discussion.

Referring to the imam's recent speech concerning the investigation of offenses through legal channels, he said that if the government commits an offense then it is the duty of the Majlis to ask for an explanation according to the Constitution, to criticize and finally to retract its vote of confidence. If a matter has been referred to the judiciary it should be looked into according to the law and then a decision made on it. Stressing that such matters should not be discussed in the press, he referred to the charge preferred by Mr Bani-Sadr against Mr Raja'i and said that the committee has referred this to the judiciary for investigation.

The spokesman for the mediation committee continued by saying that in today's session a speech made by Bazargan on 1 April, which was used to weaken the government, was also discussed. Following discussions with him two letters were written to Raja'i and Bazargan and Mr Bazargan has been asked to act in any manner he deems suitable to clear the misunderstanding and to show his good will.

The next subject was a complaint by Khamene'i and Rafsanjani against Mr Bani-Sadr concerning his article in ENQELAB-E ESLAMI entitled "The Presidents Diary." The committee wrote two letters to the gentlemen. The spokesman for the mediation committee went on to say that in today's session the results of the discussions with the press authorities were reviewed and the committee's policy on the subject was confirmed.

Mr Yazdi, referring to the committee's letters to Khamene'i and Rafsanjani, said: I can only say, without going into details, that we have asked the gentlemen to keep quiet about some subjects in order to maintain peace. Since the press authorities have been warned--in other words the committee has done the first part of its work and following such a warning any offender will have to be exposed--it is natural that from now on if the press and especially a paper with a complaint against it does not change its policy, then the committee will pass the documents to the prosecutor's office from the date ordered by the imam.

According to PARS, at the end of the session of the mediation committee, Mr Eshraqi, the president's representative, said: We had a valuable session last night. Mr Bazargan was invited and the discussions were very beneficial. Our discussions with the press were also very good. The radio and television, however, made no mention of this. He added: The media must quickly bring any news about the committee's sessions to the attention of the people and thus inform them of its activities.

ENQELAB-E ESLAMI REPORTS BAN ON MIZAN LIFTED

LD202016 Tehran in English to Europe 1930 GMT 20 Apr 81

[From the press review]

[Text] The morning daily ENQELAB-E ESLAMI, referring to the news relating to the Iraqi-imposed war upon Iran, writes [words indistinct] of Tehran has temporarily lifted the ban on the publication of the daily morning paper MIZAN.

AFP: JURISTS URGE REVISION OF 'LAW OF VENGEANCE'

NC191634 Paris AFP in English 1555 GMT 19 Apr 81

[Text] Tehran, 19 Apr (AFP)--A group of 113 Iranian Islamic jurists and magistrates today urged the "complete revision" of the "law of vengeance" that has been drawn up by the Iranian superior council of justice and approved in February by the government.

"This project contains numerous juridical and moral defects," the experts wrote in a statement published here today by the newspaper ISLAMIC REVOLUTION.

The experts predicted thatthe law would have "undersirable consequences," causing "great social and international damage" to the country and engendering "pessimism about Islamic law and procedure."

In their statement, the experts urged the formation of a committee, "composed of theologians learned in Islamic law and experts in criminology and sociology," to criticize in a scientific fashion the proposed law and then to report to parliament.

The compilers of the revision interpreted in the most literal way the Koran's approach, paralleling that of the Bible, to the problem of crime and punishment.

The mentality is that of "an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth" and punishment is often left to the family of the victim.

SOVIET AMBASSADOR MEETS WITH TRADE MINISTER

LD201720 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 20 Apr 81

[Text] According to a Central News Bureau report, the Soviet ambassador in Tehran met and conferred before noon today with the minister of trade. The meeting, which lasted for 2 hours, discussed ways to expedite the completion of the eight grain elevators under construction in Iran with Soviet cooperation. Also discussed were: ways to increase Iranian exports to the Soviet Union; the supply of certain commodities by the USSR; an increase in the volume of certain Soviet export items to Iran, such as cement; the facilitation of the transit of goods between the two countries; and cooperation in the field of shipping. It was decided in the meeting to set up joint committees to discuss the topics further.

TURKISH COMMERCIAL DELEGATION HOLDS TALKS

Meeting at Agriculture Ministry

GF181256 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 18 Apr 81

[Text] The visiting Turkish commercial delegation, which has been in Tehran since yesterday, met today with the relevant economic parties. PARS has learned that during the meeting, which was held at the Agriculture and Rural Development Ministry, discussion centered on transportation and food issues as well as banking issues between Turkey and the Islamic Republic of Iran. At the end of the meeting it was decided to refer these (?issues) to the affiliated committees.

Meeting of Commerce Ministers

LD181244 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 18 Apr 81

[Text] According to a Central News Bureau report, the Turkish commerce minister, who has come to Tehran accompanied by a Turkish trade delegation, today met our country's commerce minister and responsible officials from the Ministries of Agriculture and Rural Development, Roads and Transport and the Iran telecommunication company at the headquarters of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. During this meeting, the Turkish commerce minister, while expressing his country's support for Iran's Islamic revolution, emphasized that the Islamic revolution was victorious and would bring about successes in various fields.

The Turkish commerce minister added: We have come here as your friends and we are ready for cooperation. Expressing his desire for expanding trade relations between the two countries, the Turkish commerce minister declared: We could have useful cooperation w th Iran in the fields of transportation, railways, agriculture, stock farming, industry, cement, customs facilities and oil. In conclusion, the Turkish commerce minister emphasized: To expand trade relations between the two countries we should, in the first place, recognize the problems which exist between Turkey and Iran in this field, and after removing these problems we should embark on expanding trade relations between the two countries.

The report says that in reply, our country's commerce minister noted that committees have been set up to study the existing problems. He expressed the hope that by Wednesday of this week [22 April], during which time the Turkish trade delegation will be staying in Iran, the areas of cooperation between the two countries would be made clear.

Meeting With Transport Minister

GF211150 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 21 Apr 81

[Text] Turkish Commerce Minister Kemal Canturk met today with the minister of roads and transport. The Turkish minister expressed his country's readiness to undertake trade cooperation with the Islamic Republic of Iran. He added that his country is prepared to put all its roads and railway lines at Iran's disposal. The Turkish minister expressed hope that joint air routes and telephone lines will be established soon between the two countries.

RED CROSS REPRESENTATIVES MEET WITH RAFSANJANI

GF190645 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 19 Apr 81

[Text] The International Red Cross representatives in Iran met with the Majlis speaker, Brother Hashemi-Rafsanjani, yesterday. During this meeting, the Red Cross representatives reported on the situation of Iranian prisoners in Iraq and Iraqi prisoners in Iran and made suggestions on improving their treatment.

The Red Cross officials expressed their appreciation and gratitude to the Iranian officials for their help and the facilities they have provided for the Red Cross officials. This has made it possible for them to carry out their tasks as required.

AGRICULTURE MINISTER HEADS DELEGATION TO ROME

GF190628 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 19 Apr 81

[Text] The minister of agriculture and rural development in the Islamic Republic of Iran left for Rome this morning. He is heading an Iranian delegation to the 15th regional conference on the Middle East that will be held in Rome 21-25 April.

TEHRAN ANNOUNCES ACTIVITIES OF IRAQI MUJAHIDIN

Cable to Khomeyni

GF181802 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 18 Apr 81

[Text] Iraqi Muslim mujahidin have sent a congratulation and condolence cable to Imam Khomeyni and the oppressed Iraqi nation on the martyrdom of 18 Iraqi mujahidin. The Iraqi Muslim mujahidin affirmed that they will not abandon their weapons until the government of God is established on Iraqi soil.

Report on Defections, Arrests

GF201551 Tehran International Service in Urdu 1315 GMT 20 Apr 81

[Text] Muslim Iraqi mujahidin have announced that in the successful Iranian air attack on Iraqi bases on 4 April more than 60 Iraqi planes were destroyed.

According to the same report, Iraqi troops have responded to Khomeyni's call and have fled from their bases in large numbers. The Iraqi Government has started large-scale arrests and investigations to stop the deserters. As a result, prisons, vacant houses and even large stadiums are overflowing with prisoners.

Recent Operations

LD182215 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 18 Apr 81

[Text] The Muslim mujahidin of Iraq in an attack succeeded in killing 'Ali as-Saleh, an Iraqi capitalist who was a member of the Iraqi security organization. In various confrontations they inflicted damage and losses on the infidel enemy. In a statement issued by Iraqi Muslim mujahidin, it is said that recently the prisoners in the Basra prison rioted, succeeded in taking over the prison and killed two officers and a number of guards. In another attack by Muslim mujahidin on the headquarters of the Iraqi Army [as heard] in the city of Kirkuk, a large number of personnel were killed or injured.

Ad-Da'wah Communique

GF190610 Tehran International Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 18 Apr 81

[Text] Our London correspondent has reported that the Ad-Da'wah Party issued a communique in London today on the first anniversary of the martyrdom of Ayatollah Muhammad Baqir as-Sadr. According to the communque, the following operations have been carried out inside Iraqi territory:

1. A bridge between At-Tannumah and (Ash-Shahar) has been blown up. This has reduced military activities in the region.

2. A bomb planted in the Basra refinery exploded and destroyed major parts of the refinery, situated in (Ash-Shihabah).

3. An armed attack was launched in order to free Muslim prisoners in Basra. A number of Ba'thist agents were killed or wounded in the attack. Two mujahidin were wounded, but the rest of the group returned safely to base.

4. An attack was launched--using machineguns and handgrenades--against a Ba'thist meeting in Basra. Several Ba'thists were killed or wounded in the attack.

5. An attack was launched against the Basra television station. This caused a break in transmission for several days.

6. A powerstation in Majidiyah was blown up. This resulted in power cuts.

7. The valiant mujahidin attacked the command of the Saddamist People's Army. They killed a number of Ba'thist agents and captured quantities of weapons and ammunition. The mujahidin returned to base safely.

ARMED FORCES JOINT STAFF COMMUNIQUES 471-474

471: Battle Successes

LD171732 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 17 Apr 81

[Communique 471 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name: The situation on the battlefronts and the activities of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran--continuing their battle against the aggressive enemy forces--during the past 24 hours is brought to the attention of our dear Muslim and struggling compatriots.

The courageous combatants of the Army of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the Abadan and Khuninshahr fronts executed artillery and mortar fire on enemy positions and destroyed 2 heavy machinegun positions, 2 entrenchments, 1 vehicle, 1 ammunition depot, 1 observation post, 1 Katyusha and an enemy tank, and killed or injured 80 Iraqis.

On the Abadan-Mahshahr axis, the selfless personnel of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran bravely fired on enemy positions and destroyed one loader, three tanks, one heavy machinegun, one ammunition depot and two collective entrenchments belonging to the Iraqi aggressors, killing or wounding a number of their personnel.

Artillery and mortar fire continues between our forces and the enemy in the Ahvaz and Susangerd regions; enemy intrenchments, a tank and a vehicle were set on fire and destroyed and a number of Iraqis were either killed or wounded as a result.

In Dezful region, the selfless personnel of Islam's army damaged an enemy personnel carrier and another vehicle. On another front in the same region, an enemy tank, personnel carrier and fuel tank were destroyed and about 20 Iraqi soldiers were either killed or wounded.

The defenders of the Islamic revolution forced enemy aircraft that had violated the airspace of a number of our cities to flee, using their antiaircraft defenses.

Yesterday, the exchange of fire in Meymak, Gilan-e Gharb, Kan-e Sakht and Konjancham continued and the brave vanguards of Islam in Kan-e Sakht fired on enemy positions and destroyed one observation tower, three entrenchments, four foxholes and either killed or wounded a number of enemy forces.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

472: Clashes in South, West

LD181744 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 18 Apr 81

[Communique 472 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name, dear Muslim compatriots of Iran: The situation on the war fronts and the operations carried out by the combatants of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran during the past 24 hours are hereby brought to your attention:

1. Southern fronts: Combatants of the ground forces on the Abadan-Khuninshahr fronts returned the fire of the Iraqi Army and destroyed 2 ammunition depots, 10 bunkers, a rocket launcher and a heavy machinegun belonging to the enemy. The Iraqi mercenary forces sustained heavy losses during these operations. The city of Abadan came under enemy artillery and long-range weapons' fire which damaged some residential homes and installations. In Khuninshahr yesterday the positions of the Iraqi mercenaries in the western part of the city and in Umm ar-Rafah came under heavy fire from our artillery, resulting in the destruction of 10 bivouac areas and an enemy ammunition depot.

Twelve Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded.

On one of Ahvaz fronts, the selfless forces of Islam subjected enemy positions to artillery fire, killing or wounding more than 50 of the mercenaries and destroying an observation post and a mortar.

On the Susangerd front, two enemy RPG-7 positions were destroyed and one of their tanks was put out of action. The number of enemy killed or wounded is not known.

2. Western fronts: Yesterday many of the western fronts witnessed sporadic exchanges of fire between the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the forces of blasphemy. Clashes on the Meymak front exceeded those on other fronts. Intense mortar fire by our gendarmerie heroes caused Saddam's mercenary forces considerable damage on the Kan-e Sakht front and, according to the report received, the death of seven enemy soldiers and the wounding of a number of others. Artillery and mortar fire from the combatants of the ground forces and guards brothers destroyed two 130-mm cannons and an enemy vehicle and put a number of enemy tanks out of action in (Eyn Khosh), Musian and Dehloran. About 17 of Saddam's mercenary soldiers were either killed or wounded during these operations.

473: 19 Apr Report

LD191752 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 19 Apr 81

[Communique 473 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name: While expressing thanks and gratitude for the kindness, favor and pure unprecedented sentiments expressed by our dear compatriots, state officials, institutions, government offices, revolutionary organizations and the dear Iranians residing abroad who, by holding celebrations and sending messages and telegrams, granted their lofty favor and support to their brother soldiers and battlefront combatants on the occasion of 18 April, the Islamic Republic of Iran's Army Day, this is to inform you of operations and events on the southern and western fronts of the country.

1. On the southern fronts: Our selfless heroes, with cooperation from brother corpsmen, in their assault operations today against the forces of blasphemy destroyed seven enemy tanks, two vehicles and one ammunition dump in the Karkheh region. In this face-to-face battle, mortal blows were struck at the aggressors: more than 100 Iraqi troops were killed and 50 of Saddam's misled personnel were captured by our forces. Artillery fire by the Ground Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran on enemy positions yesterday caused substantial losses and casualties for the aggressive Iraqi Army in the same region. On the Hamidiyeh front, our combatants brought enemy armor and personnel under their heavy weapons fire and severely pounded his positions. Ahvaz and Abadan were again the targets of Iraqi Army artillery and heavy weapons. These cowardly attacks resulted in material damage and casualties. In the Khuninshahr region, firing continued between our forces and the Iraqi aggressors and losses and casualties were inflicted on the enemy. Accurate figures for this are not available. Artillery shelling by the Ground Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran on enemy positions in the Vaseliyeh region destroyed one troop carrier and one machinegun emplacement belonging to the mercenaries, four of whom were killed.

2. On the western fronts: Our combat units along the western fronts continued to alertly watch enemy activity. With their superior firepower, they hit the aggressors' fortifications and troop concentrations and inflicted substantial losses and casualties on the Iraqi forces. On the Mehran front, our accurate artillery fire hit a large Iraqi ammunition dump and blew it up. Casualties were also inflicted on the aggressors in these operations. Meanwhile, several invading Iraqi fighter aircraft that appeared over three western cities of the country were forced to flee thanks to timely fire by the surface-to-air defense units.

According to a report, on 17 April two of our heroic combatants belonging to the Gendarmerie and the Navy of the Islamic Republic of Iran achieved the blessing of martyrdom and sacrificed their lives in their pure belief for dear Iran and Islam.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

474: 20 Apr Report

LD201757 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 20 Apr 81

[Communique 474 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. The Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which consist of the ground forces, the air force, navy, gendarmerie, police, revolution guards, mobilization forces and other fighting militia, continue their brave fighting on the fronts of the right against wrong and against the aggressor enemy, and are creating epics. The situation on the warfronts during the past 24 hours is hereby announced for the information of the combatant and revolutionary Iranian compatriots:

Exchange of fire continued on the southern fronts and the fire by Islamic units on the Abadan and Khuninshahr fronts resulted in the destruction of several tanks, 6 trenches, 2 mortar launchers, 4 ammunition dumps, 2 106-mm guns, 1 loader, 2 bulldozers and 2 heavy machineguns; 50 Iraqis were killed or injured.

On another front in the Abadan area, the self-sacrificing Islamic forces were able to destroy 2 tanks, 1 crane, 1 loader, 1 vehicle, several trenches and foxholes, 1 106-mm gun, 1 ammunition dump and 1 enemy observation post. The self-sacrificing personnel of the Army of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Dezful were able to destroy 1 Iraqi artillery unit and 1 ammunition dump by their artillery fire and killed or wounded a number of Iraqi personnel.

The dastardly shelling of civilian areas in Abadan, Ahvaz and Gilan-e Gharb by the enemy inflicted some damage on several houses.

On the western fronts, exchanges of fire between the defenders of the Islamic revolution of Iran and the Iraqi aggressors continued. The brave Islamic fighters, using artillery, were able to set ablaze the pumping station in the Iraqi town of Naftkhaneh. Our fire against enemy positions on the Qasr-e Shirin heights destroyed one Iraqi mortar launcher and its ammunition and also killed four Iraqi personnel.

Our brave fighters brought the Iraqi Biarreh post and its surroundings under their artillery fire and destroyed 1 artillery unit, 1 antiaircraft unit, 2 vehicles and 4 military buildings as well as killing around 40 enemy personnel.

The self-sacrificers of Islam yesterday were able to neutralize enemy aircraft attempting to enter the airspace of several of our southern and western cities and by their clever use of antiaircraft guns forced them to retreat.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

GUARDS' OPERATIONS IN SOUTH, WEST REPORTED

LD181910 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 18 Apr 81

[Excerpts] Central News Bureau reports indicate that the Public Relations Office of the central headauarters of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps in a statement gave details of operations undertaken by the selfless combatants of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps during the past 2 days.

A. On the western fronts:

1. Gilan-e Gharb: Due to the fire of the guards corps' mortar unit at this front 20 of the forces of blasphemy were killed and 30 were injured. During the operations several vehicles belonging to the followers of Saddam received considerable damage and one of their bulldozers was destroyed. Also, due to the bombs planted on one of the roads traveled by enemy vehicles, 25 of the infidels were killed or wounded and one Zil vehicle and one command jeep were destroyed. In a series of guerrilla operations carried out by guard brothers, enemy positions behind Saddam's fronts were mined and as a result of their collision with mines two Zil vehicles, one command jeep and an enemy vehicle were destroyed within a short period of time.

2. In the Sumar regions: The exchange of fire between our forces and the enemy continued and Saddam's forces suffered losses.

B. On the southern fronts:

1. Khuninshahr: On the Kut-e Sheykh front the guards' mortar fire hit enemy positions in this region and destroyed a large amount of ammunition, killing six of the soldiers of the forces of blasphemy.

2. Zolfaqari: Shots fired by 106-mm guns belonging to our brothers destroyed a [word indistinct] personnel carrier and set fire to an ammunition depot of Saddam's army which continued burning for hours.

3. Fayaziyeh: On this front, the heroes of the guards destroyed an enemy personnel carrier and a number of its passengers were killed.

4. Minu Island: As a result of the brother guards' fire, two of the vehicles of the Ba'thist forces were destroyed and three group trenches of the aggressive infidels were destroyed. During a severe confrontation an ammunition depot belonging to the invading army of Saddam was destroyed. At one of the Dezful fronts, due to an intensive exchange of fire between the artillery of Islam's army and the forces of the infidel Saddam, two enemy tanks were hit and destroyed completely.

COMMANDERS END SEMINAR, ISSUE RESOLUTION

LD181832 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 18 Apr 81

[Excerpt] A PARS correspondent reports that a 3-day seminar of the country's revolution guards corps commanders was concluded today in Esfahan.

The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps draws the ever-increasing attention of the officials and the martyr-nurturing nation to the war issue, promising that by relying on God and through coordination with the Islamic Republic Army and the Muslim people it shall realize the issue of exporting the revolution and shall continue the way until all oppressed peoples are liberated.

The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps commanders also call in this resolution on competent sources, especially the Islamic Consultative Assembly, the Cabinet, the Supreme Judicial Council and the Supreme Defense Council to make arrangements so that all Muslim and committed forces maintain their links only with the corps and the army in order to minimize losses and insubordination by the forces at the various fronts through higher discipline and so that the growth of illegal forces is thwarted, with responsible institutions taking over the full responsibility of operations.

QOM GUARDS, REVOLUTION COURT ISSUE WARNING

LD201746 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 20 Apr 81

[Text] According to the Central News Bureau, the Qom revolution guards and revolution court have issued a statement warning all plotters and deviated elements that, unless they desist from their plots, they will be firmly dealt with. The statement goes on to say: We ask the dear Iranian nation and particularly the citizens of Qom to be completely aware and maintain their revolutionary patience and, should they confront any suspicious characters or activities harmful to unity, they should immediately report them to the revolution guards using the following telephone numbers: 7444, 2692 and 2151.

TEHRAN HOUSING TRANSACTION BAN CONTINUES

LD181316 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 18 Apr 81

[Announcement by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development--date not given]

[Text] On the basis of clause two of the legislation concerning the conduct of the housing foundation and house transactions, approved by the Islamic Consultative Assembly on 8 March 1981, and in line with the implementation of the policy of preventing the expansion of the city of Tehran and unwarranted migration into this city, the regulations embodied in this clause will continue to be enforced for the city of Tehran.

In other cities, housing transactions will proceed in accordance with the related regulations.

ESTAHBANAT COURT PROHIBITS SALE, PURCHASE OF LAND

GF181838 Shiraz Domestic Service in Persian 1530 GMT 18 Apr 81

[Text] According to the orders of the administrative authorities and communique No 6, dated 2 September 1980, of the Islamic Revolution Court of Estahbanat, sale and purchase of agricultural land, etc is illegal whatever the mode of transaction, and the buyer and seller will be deemed violators of the law. In this communique it has been said that the land allocation headquarters in Estahbanat will perform its duties with due attention to the illegality of such actions vis-a-vis the problems encountered thereby, and will report all sellers and purchasers of agricultural land to the Islamic Revolution Court. The land allocation headquarters in Estahbanat has asked all the rural residents to send any such information to the Estahbanat governor's office for appropriate action.

FORMER GOVERNOR UNDER INVESTIGATION IN MASHHAD

LD181036 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0730 GMT 18 Apr 81

[Text] According to a Central News Bureau report, the Islamic revolution public prosecutor's office in Mashhad has issued a statement announcing the following:

The accusatory dossier against Mohammad Hasan Seraj-Hejazi, the last but one governor general, is under investigation at the Mashhad public prosecutor's office. Mashhad's Islamic revolution public prosecutor's office invited all who might have a complaint or a testimony to give against the said individual to apply to the said office by 26 April of this year at the latest in order to lodge their complaint or to give testimony.

In this statement, Mashhad's Islamic revolution public prosecutor's office also warned Mohammad Hasan Seraj-Hejazi to give himself up to that office within the stipulated time, otherwise the accusation against the said individual would be investigated and the necessary decision would be taken in absentia.

MAHABAD POLICE DEPARTMENT RESUMES OPERATIONS

LD191804 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 19 Apr 81

[Text] According to the Central News Bureau, the Police Department in Mahabad resumed its activities as of yesterday. The city's Police Department had become inactive 8 months ago due to the activities of counterrevolutionary elements. The operations resumed following reestablishment of government control in the area and at the request of the citizens. Colonel Taqisaden, the chief of Western Azarbayjan police departments, announced this news yesterday and asked the Muslim citizens of Mahabad to aid the police with their heavy responsibilities and to increase their cooperation with the police.

NVOI: U.S. FANNING RELIGIOUS DISTURBANCES

TA172013 (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 1730 GMT 17 Apr 81

[Unattributed commentary: "The Creation of Clashes Between the Sunni and Shi'ite People Is One of the Plots of U.S. Imperialism"]

[Text] Dear compatriots: One of the very important topics to which lately Imam Khomeyni has repeatedly alluded in his messages is the topic of discord sowing by the foes of the revolution among the Sunnis and Shi'ites in our homeland. Particularly in his recent messages, Imam Khomeyni rightly warned these foes of the revolution that if they do not desist from these inhuman acts judicial authorities will have no alternative but to implement the law in their case.

The creation of difference in the ranks of the true forces of the revolution and the sincere followers of the popular and anti-imperialist revolution of 11 February was and continues to be one of the principle aims of the counterrevolution, the liberals, the American Maoists and other elements of world-devouring America. The creation of dissension and clashes among our homeland's Sunni and Shi'ite brothers is one of the most dangerous parts of the plan of the counterrevolution, which is extensively being used by the foes of the counterrevolution, and which effectively aids in the promotion of its general aim--the crushing of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

It was on the morrow of the revolution's victory that we in our revolutionary and liberated homeland witnessed certain clashes in several parts of our country. In order to foment clashes in these areas they had raised this very issue of Shi'ite and Sunni. Our homeland's people recall clearly that at that time Imam Khomeyni and the late Ayatollah Taleqani, while expressing their intense and deep concern about this plot of the counterrevolution, warned the Sunnis and called upon them to unite and to observe unity of expression. However, what is to be done? Counterrevolution is counterrevolution, and it has only one thought in mind: crushing the Islamic Republic of Iran and bringing world-devouring U.S. imperialism back to Iran at any price.

Also, there always was and still exists an obvious background for creating differences and clashes among the Sunni and Shi'ite brothers as a result of the nonimplementation of the contents of the Constitution and the imam's guidelines in connection with securing the rights of ethnic minorities, on the one hand, and keeping almost intact the bases of the counterrevolution--the big landowners, the feudalists, the dependent capitalists, the liberals, the American Maoists and other elements of world-devouring America--particularly in civil and military organizations, on the other hand.

The attempt by the counterrevolution to create differences among the Sunnis and Shi'ites, especially in recent months, has acquired a much wider scope and intensity. So much so that in many of our homeland's Sunni-populated areas the counterrevolution, in the feature of the liberals and the American Maoists, such as Ranjbar and Peykar, is openly striving to implement the plot of the At-Ta'if conference, placing the Sunni and Shi'ite compatriots vis-a-vis each other. Through puppet regimes of world-devouring America in the region, the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency was finally able to achieve the promotion of its anti-Islamic, and particularly under the current special circumstances, its anti-Iranian goal, and to impose its treacherous plan on the At-Ta'if conference; for the implementation of the At-Ta'if conference plot, particularly in our homeland's current sensitive and critical conditions, can be very effective in promoting the plot of the creeping coup by the U.S. and the counterrevolution.

The liberals and the multicolored American Maoists, in order to exonerate the anti-Islamic policy of world-devouring America, and according to their vain thought, in order to cover up the imposed activities of the United States at the At-Ta'if conference, pretend that allegedly the communists, including the Soviet Government, had a hand in this conference and its decisions through Saudi Arabia, Oman or Jordan. Through this ignomimious ruse the liberal gentlemen and the Maoists who admire world-devouring America have disgraced themselves more than ever; for in the present-day world one can hardly find a simpleton who will be affected by such nonsense.

At any rate, in Sistan va Baluchestan, in Kordestan and in other Sunni-inhabited areas of our homeland, the big capitalists, the feudalists and big landowners, the khans and sardars, the liberals and the multicolored American Maoists are engaged in a united front in intensifying and deepening differences among the Sunnis and Shi'ites. As Imam Khomeyni has warned, many of these enemies of the revolution have been identified and are individuals who during the former regime were its supporters and propagandists. Again, as Imam Khomeyni has warned and has rightly demanded from judicial authorities, one should act with the utmost revolutionary decisiveness against these foes of the revolution--the liberals and the American Maoists--before it is too late.

It is by adopting a decisive attitude toward the multicolored foes of the revolution, by immediate resolution of the problems of the people, by unity of expression and deed of the true forces of the revolution and by broadening the revolution that we can neutralize the existing grounds for the activity of the liberals, the American Maoists and other elements of world-devouring America.

VOICE OF IRAN: NEW RESISTANCE GROUP FORMED

NC201813 (Clandestine) Voice of Iran in Persian 1805 GMT 18 Apr 81

[Summary] A communique issued by a newly formed resistance group calling itself Pars was distributed in Tehran and other provinces (?yesterday). The communique states that the Pars organization is a national organization that enjoys the cooperation of other named resistance groups. After listing some of its objectives, Pars ends its communique by pledging allegiance to the tricolor flag and to the constitutional monarchy.